

BLOOMFIELD HAVEN.

VISIT TO WASHINGTON'S REFUGE IN NEW JERSEY.

It is Supposed That the Gloomiest Night of the Hero's Life Was Passed in That Queer Old Building in the Jersey Village.

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"That, sir, is the Washington house. It's where General Washington stopped once during the Revolutionary war."

Such was the answer that I received to an inquiry that I made about an old stone house standing on a neglected corner, just west of the old New Jersey town of Bloomfield. My curiosity had been aroused by the contrast it made with the neat cottages with their closely shaven lawns and well kept shrubbery that hemmed it in on nearly every side



THE OLD HOUSE IN BLOOMFIELD. It was a Rip Van Winkle amid the generation that had grown up since he fell asleep. I felt that the decrepit old structure must have a history, and the answer to my inquiry confirmed the thought that had come to me in some mysterious way.

"It doesn't look now as if it ever had that honor, does it?" asked my informant.

I had to confess that it did not. I could easily imagine that it might have sheltered ghosts or that a witch may have once made it her home. I could almost fancy that I saw her lean and whitened visage peering through the narrow dormer in the middle of the long, moss covered roof, or her thin bony hand thrust through one of the windows on either side of the old weather-beaten porch.

But there was nothing about it but the two tall maples in front that suggested the dignity and stateliness that the American always couples with the name of Washington. It was low, only a single story in height, and from where I stood, beyond the old trees, it looked small and cramped.

"No, sir; the house is not so small as you think. It has a frontage of nearly fifty feet, and its depth is fully thirty. There is, besides, an annex on the west side in the rear twenty feet square. The roof used to cover big families in those good old times when a dozen children gladdened and sometimes saddened the hearts of the pioneers. There are a good many children shouting and screaming in the yard and on the walk now, but they belong to the three families that now live in the house.

In the days of the Revolution it was one of the finest residences in this part of the country. True enough, there were not at that time many houses in Bloomfield—not more than a score—but most of them were of logs. This is, however, of stone, as you see; and if you look at it closely you will see also that the stone in front and on the north side toward the street are cut and laid in courses; those on the other two sides are rough and laid without any regularity. The wide hallway that runs from the front entrance to the rear still retains marks of its ancient glory. The casings and wide window seats in the two rooms on each side of the hall are not without marks of a luxury that was unusual in a farmhouse a century ago.

The old fireplaces with their mantels that have been removed to make room for the tenants that now crowd it, would have brought joy to the heart of the Colonial housebuilder could they have been transferred in their primitive size and beauty to his hall and library. The eight or nine rooms up stairs are not large, it is true, but they are not smaller than those of Washington's mansion at Mount Vernon. The annex in the rear is not elegant; but I dare say it was as convenient and useful to its Colonial owners as the old kitchen on the Potomac. Like the main part of the house itself, this part has been cut up and changed a good deal to suit the needs of tenants. Were Washington to return I fear that he would recognize but little that met his eyes when a Mr. Cadmus, who then owned it, welcomed him to his fireside."

Even had the old house been as dilapidated as it is now, I do not think that Washington would have regarded it as an unwelcome shelter. However particular he may have been about his surroundings after he laid down his sword, he was not able to give much thought to them at the time of his visit to Bloomfield toward the close of 1776. Never during his life was his mind and body more severely taxed. "Such is my situation," he said, "that if I were to wish the bitterest curse to an enemy on this side of the grave, I should put him in my steed with my feelings."

It was at this time, continued my informant, "that Washington stopped at the old storehouse in Bloomfield. Exhausted from a hard day's riding directing the retreat of his little army, he rode up to an old stuccoed house that now stands on Franklin street, near the center of the village. Here he hoped to find food and fire and rest for the night. But he was disappointed; the house was already occupied by General Green and his staff. Although some of the subordinate officers offered to withdraw and thus make room for him, he refused to accept their self sacrifice."

"Continuing along the road to the west he came to the old stone house. The family had eagerly espoused the cause of the patriots on the outbreak of the war. Gladly therefore did they welcome the stalwart officer that sought

their hospitality. Thrice welcome did they make him when they learned that he was the great general that they had heard so much about. Tradition says that Mr. Cadmus entertained him three days, but that can hardly be true, for the British troops were seeking with all possible haste to overtake and overwhelm him and his wearied and disheartened army.

"But the great man was not there long enough to show a side of his heart that is seldom spoken of. Occupied as he must have been with the innumerable troubles and perplexities that confronted him, anxious as he must have been to save his army and find means to drive the British troops out of the country, yet he did not overlook little Abram Cadmus that stood by his mother's side in silent awe. 'Come here, my little man, and tell me your name,' said Washington, in a tone so kind and gentle that the little fellow ran up to him. Washington took him on his knee and talked with him as though he had done nothing but play with children all his life."

On leaving Bloomfield Washington retired with his army into Pennsylvania. The British generals thought that he would not attempt in midwinter to regain the ground that he had lost. They returned to New York and plunged into every kind of self indulgence. But while they danced and gambled, Washington, as all the world knows, stole across the Delaware, defeated the Hessians at Trenton, marched to Princeton, where he won another victory, and in a short time freed the Jersey from the presence of a British soldier. Thus was completed one of the most masterly campaigns of the Revolution.

FRANKLIN SMITH.

FACETIE WASHINGTONIANA.

Some Little Pleasantries to Relieve the Awful Dignity.

The Court—George Washington Hooch, stand up. You have been found guilty by a jury of good and true men of the crime of perjury. You have brought disgrace on the honored name of the Father of His Country, which your fond parents mistakenly bestowed upon you when an innocent child. George Washington never told a lie. You have not only lied, but sworn to it. Have you anything to say before the sentence of the court is passed upon you?

The Prisoner (with some resentment)—Judge, I know all about that batchet-judge. George Washington didn't lie when he was a boy. Neither did I. It's unfair to George Washington and unfair to me to push the comparison any further. Go ahead with your sentence. —Chicago Tribune.

Be Held for George.

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W. L. DOUGLAS

WHY IS THE

S3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

THE BEST SHOE IN THE WORLD FOR THE MONEY?

IT IS A SEAMLESS SHOE, WITH NO TACKS OR WAX THREAD TO HURT THE FEET; MADE IN THE BEST LINE OF CLOTH, AND IS SO EASY TO PUT ON AND TAKE OFF, THAT ANYONE CAN DO IT.

IT IS MADE OF THE FINEST MATERIALS, AND IS OF A BETTER GRADE THAN ANY OTHER MANUFACTURER, IT EQUALS HAND-MADE SHOES.

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